International Weather and Crop Summary

NOAA/USDA Joint Agricultural Weather Facility

July 30 – August 5, 2006

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HIGHLIGHTS

FSU-WESTERN: Increasingly warm, dry weather helped small grain harvesting in eastern Ukraine and southern Russia but stressed summer crops in the reproductive to filling stages of development.

FSU-NEW LANDS: Cool weather accompanied light, scattered showers in Russia and Kazakhstan, maintaining adequate moisture conditions for spring grains in the filling stage.

EUROPE: Widespread rain across central and eastern Europe aided summer crop development but slowed winter grain harvesting.

AUSTRALIA: Mostly dry, relatively mild weather reduced topsoil moisture for winter grains and oilseeds in western, southern, and eastern Australia.

SOUTH ASIA: Heavy monsoon rain in central and northern India favored summer crop development but caused local flooding.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: Monsoon showers provided favorable moisture to rice and corn in Indochina, while flooding continued in the northern Philippines.

EASTERN ASIA: Showers prevailed in China, favoring reproductive crops as Typhoon Prapiroon made landfall in southern China.

ARGENTINA: Cold, dry weather slowed early growth of winter wheat.

BRAZIL: Cool weather slowed development of vegetative to heading winter wheat.

CANADA: Showers benefited crops in the northern and eastern Prairies, but dry weather prevailed in the southwest.

MEXICO: Beneficial rain continued for corn and other summer crops.

FSU-WESTERN: Mostly dry weather prevailed over the eastern two thirds of Ukraine and the Southern District in Russia, helping winter and spring grain harvesting. Daily temperatures in these areas rose steadily during the week, ranging from 33 to 37 degrees C at week's end. While the late-week hot weather promoted corn, sunflower, and sugar beet development, it followed two consecutive weeks of mostly dry weather, likely causing some decline in crop conditions. Elsewhere, soaking rain (25-50 mm or more) fell in western Ukraine, Belarus, and the Central District in Russia, causing some interruptions in winter grain harvesting. Light showers (around 10 mm) in the Volga District favored immature spring grains and caused only brief delays in winter grain harvesting. Weekly temperatures averaged slightly above normal in Ukraine and extreme southern Russia and 1 to 4 degrees C below normal in northern Russia.

FSU-NEW LANDS: Periodic showers (3-23 mm) were observed throughout most spring grain areas in Kazakhstan and Russia, providing some moisture for crops in the filling stages of development. Moderate to locally heavy rain (25-50 mm or more) was confined to the central portion of the Urals District. Weekly temperatures averaged 3 to 6 degrees C below normal in the western half of the region and near to slightly above normal in the east. In cotton growing areas of Central Asia, seasonably hot, dry weather maintained high irrigation requirements and favored cotton development.

EUROPE: In sharp contrast to last month’s record-setting heat wave, widespread rain and near- to below-normal temperatures overspread much of central and eastern Europe. A slow-moving upper-air disturbance triggered light to moderate showers (5-20 mm) in France, delaying final winter grain harvesting but favoring reproductive to filling corn. Farther east, locally heavy rain (10-90 mm) in Germany and the Low Countries slowed winter grain harvesting but boosted prospects for reproductive summer crops. Meanwhile, widespread moderate to heavy showers (15-55 mm) in Poland and the Baltics provided much-needed moisture for late-filling spring grains and reproductive summer crops, although more rain will be needed to ease long-term precipitation deficits. Across southern Europe, dry weather on the Iberian Peninsula further reduced corn and sunflower yield prospects, while welcomed rainfall (50-90 mm) in northern Italy boosted irrigation reserves and eased crop stress on reproductive to filling corn. Showers and locally heavy thunderstorms (15-88 mm) also returned to the Balkans, boosting moisture reserves for summer crops following several weeks of dry weather.

AUSTRALIA: Mostly dry weather (less than 5 mm) prevailed across major winter grain producing areas in western, southern, and eastern Australia. The generally dry weather combined with relatively mild air (maximum temperatures in the middle 10's to lower 20's degrees C) to increase net evaporation, reducing topsoil moisture for vegetative winter grains and oilseeds. Although recent rainfall has helped stabilize crop conditions in western and eastern Australia, more rain is needed across the winter wheat belt to eliminate longer-term soil moisture deficits and to help improve crop prospects as winter grains advance through the jointing stage of development.

SOUTH ASIA: Heavy monsoon rain maintained mostly favorable summer crop prospects in central and western India, while pockets of drier-than-normal weather persisted in northeastern and southern growing areas. A pair of tropical disturbances triggered heavy to locally excessive rain (100-360 mm) from Orissa westward into Gujarat and southern Rajasthan. The rainfall benefited recently-planted cotton in central India, but likely caused additional quality and disease concerns for vegetative to reproductive groundnuts in Gujarat due to submerged fields. Moderate to heavy rain (50-230 mm) in soybean areas of Madhya Pradesh boosted crop prospects after a slow start to the rainy season. Rain (25-60 mm) also overspread much of southern Pakistan, boosting moisture reserves for recently planted summer crops. In northern portions of India and Pakistan, pockets of extremely heavy rain (200-340 mm) caused flooding but boosted irrigation reserves. In contrast, drier-than-normal weather (less than 50 mm) in Bangladesh reduced moisture supplies for main-season rice, while dry weather (less than 5 mm) in southern India increased irrigation demands on recently-planted summer crops.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: Monsoon showers (25-100 mm) prevailed throughout Thailand, boosting soil moisture for corn and rice as well as reservoir levels. Heavy rainfall (50-100 mm) in most of Vietnam boosted irrigation levels for rice but likely slowed harvest activities for summer-autumn rice. Typically, harvesting of summer-autumn rice winds down in early August prior to seasonal floods. Tropical cyclone Prapiroon tracked across the northern Philippines with winds between 30 and 40 knots. The storm brought heavy rain (50-200 mm, locally over 200 mm) to Luzon, which has been plagued by flooding over the last few weeks. The rain exacerbated flooding in western Luzon, while likely causing some flooding in agriculturally significant areas of the east as well. Elsewhere in the Philippines, showers (25-100 mm) were seasonable, favoring rice and corn. Oil palm areas on Indonesia remained dry with only localized showers in central Sumatra. The dryness favored harvesting but further reduced moisture supplies for young trees. In Malaysia, however, rainfall (50-100 mm) boosted moisture supplies for oil palm.

EASTERN ASIA: Most growing areas in China continued to receive beneficial rainfall while dry weather prevailed in the eastern Yangtze Valley. In southern China, Typhoon Prapiroon made landfall on August 3 with winds of 65 knots. The storm brought heavy showers (100-200 mm) to an area that has been struck by three tropical cyclones in the last 2 months. The rainfall exacerbated flooding in minor rice areas and sugarcane fields. Monsoon showers developed along a stationary front that setup from Hubei to Manchuria. In the Yangtze Valley, the front kept most showers (25-100 mm) in Hubei, with dry weather prevailing in the upper and lower parts of the Valley. On the North China Plain, the front brought widespread showers (25-100 mm, locally more) aiding reproductive corn, soybeans, and cotton. In Manchuria, widespread showers (25-100 mm) boosted soil moisture to reproductive corn and soybeans, with the heaviest amounts occurring in Jilin and Lioaning which have been dry for the last 2 weeks. Elsewhere in the region, the front that had been producing heavy showers in South Korea and Japan shifted west, allowing drier weather to ease wetness in these areas.

ARGENTINA: Unseasonably cold (3-5 degrees C below normal), dry weather dominated all major agricultural areas, slowing growth of winter grains that ranged from emerging to tillering in development. In the main winter wheat areas, temperatures fell below freezing on several days early in the week, with lows of -2 degrees C recorded as far north as Chaco. According to Argentina's Ministry of Agriculture, winter wheat was 86 percent planted, comparable to last year's pace of 88 percent. In La Pampa, planting rose only 3 percentage points (21 percent complete versus 18 last week) despite last week's showers, and fieldwork stayed well behind last year's pace of 44 percent. Temperatures fell below -5 degrees C in La Pampa and western Buenos Aires, slowing germination of newly sown crops and possibly burning back tender vegetation.

BRAZIL: Mostly dry, cooler-than-normal weather (1-4 degrees C below normal) dominated southern Brazil, slowing development of vegetative to heading winter wheat. Freezing temperatures were recorded as far north as southern Parana, possibly affecting development of crops in or nearing the heading stage of development. Farther north, seasonable warmth and dryness promoted harvesting of coffee and other seasonal crops in the center-west region (notably Rondonia to western Minas Gerais) but showers (5-25 mm or more) likely caused minor fieldwork delays from eastern Sao Paulo to Espirito Santo, including some southern growing areas of Minas Gerais. The moisture will ultimately benefit next year’s coffee crop, which should flower between September and November. According to press reports emanating from Brazil, coffee was 62 percent harvested as of July 26.

CANADA: Beneficial rain (10-25 mm or more) overspread northern and eastern Prairie growing areas, boosting moisture reserves for pastures and immature spring grains and oilseeds. In Manitoba, the rain came too late to significantly improve prospects of early planted crops as harvesting was reportedly underway. Mostly dry weather dominated the southern growing areas of Alberta and Saskatchewan, although near- to below-normal temperatures (highs briefly reaching the lower 30s degrees C) helped to mitigate the impact of the continuing dryness on livestock and pastures. As with Manitoba, however, early-planted spring crops were maturing and rain at this point in the growing season would be of little if any benefit.

In eastern Canada, warm, showery weather (temperatures averaged 3-4 degrees C above normal, with rainfall totaling 5-25 mm or more) fostered late season growth of summer crops and pastures across the main growing areas of southern Ontario. Locally heavy rain (greater than 50 mm) maintained excessive wetness in Quebec and neighboring locations of eastern Ontario. Highs reaching the lower and middle 30s degrees C across the region helped corn and soybeans to advance toward maturity.

MEXICO: Seasonably warm, showery weather (rainfall totaling 10-50 mm or more) benefited corn and other summer crops across southern Mexico, including most crop areas of the southern plateau. Seasonal rain also intensified in central and northern Mexico, with parts of the Rio Grande Valley (northern Chihuahua) receiving one of the heaviest single-event rain totals (50-100 mm or more) on record. However, unseasonably dry weather (less than 10 mm) continued in Tamaulipas, maintaining higher than usual needs for irrigation.